



BOROUGH OF MALDON.

---

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1923,

BY

H. REYNOLDS BROWN,

M.D.

---

MALDON :

Gowers, Ltd., Printers, Maldon.

---

1924.





BOROUGH OF MALDON.

---

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1923,

BY

H. REYNOLDS BROWN,

M.D.

---

MALDON :

Gowers, Ltd., Printers, Maldon.

---

1924.

# To The Mayor, The Aldermen, and The Burgesses of the Borough of Maldon.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maldon, during the year 1923.

The following table shows (1) that the Birth Rate continues to fall, although it is not as low as it was during the War years, (2) that the Death Rate is lower than ever, and below the average Death Rate for England and Wales, (3) that the remarkable fall in the Infant Death Rate which followed on the awakening of interest in the subject of Maternity and Child Welfare has been continued.

		Birth Rate	<del>Birth</del> <sup>Death</sup> Rate	Infant Death
		per 1,000 inhabitants	per 1,000 inhabitants	Rate per 1,000 births
Average 1899—1903	(Maldon)	25·3	14·8	89
„ 1904—1908	„	23·3	14·5	105
„ 1909—1913	„	19·2	13	84
„ 1914—1918	„	16·2	15	68
„ 1919—1923	„	18·5	11·6	46·2
Year 1924	„	17·8	11·2	35·4
„ 1924	England & Wales	19·7	11·6	69

There has been no special prevalence of sickness to note, with the exception of one small epidemic of diphtheria in connection with one of the schools. The majority of the cases were what are known as cases of Bacteriological diphtheria; i.e., without the patient showing signs of illness, the diphtheria bacillus was found in the throat. Not many years ago such cases were of course undiscoverable, and were a fruitful source of the propagation of the disease.

The chief want in the Borough is the provision of new houses. Even when the 32 new houses now being built are occupied there will still be a large unsatisfied demand for accommodation.

I wish to thank the Council for the support that they have given me during the period of over 25 years that I have acted as their Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. REYNOLDS BROWN.



*1.—General Statistics.*

Area (acres)	Land	...	...	...	3015
	Inland Water	...	...	...	13
	Tidal Water	...	...	...	120
	Foreshore	...	...	...	566
				Total	3714
Population (1923)	...	...	...	...	6336
No. of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	1528
No. of Families, or separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	1537
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£25,463
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£85

*2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.*

BIRTHS.		Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate
Legitimate	...	113	46	67	17·8
Illegitimate	...	2	1	1	
DEATHS	...	...	...	...	71
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	11·2
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	...			<div> <div>From Sepsis</div> <div>From other causes</div> </div>	<div>0</div> <div>0</div>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age				<div>Legitimate</div> <div>Illegitimate</div>	<div>4</div> <div>0</div>
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births	...	...	...	<div>Legitimate</div> <div>Illegitimate</div> <div>Total</div>	<div>37·4</div> <div>0</div> <div>35·4</div>
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...		Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...		Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...		Nil.
„ „ Respiratory Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...		2
„ „ Non-respiratory „ „	...	...	...		2
„ „ Cancer	...	...	...		6

Table I.

Sex	Scarlet Fever.	Influenza	Encephalitis Lethargica	Tuberculosis Respiratory	Tuberculosis Non Respiratory	Cancer.	Diabetes	Cerebral Hemorrhage.	Heart Disease.	Arterio Sclerosis.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory Diseases	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	Acute or Chronic Nephritis	Congenital Debility and Malformation. Premature Birth	Suicide	Other deaths from Violence.	Other defined Diseases.	Totals.
Males	1	1	1	1	...	4	...	2	5	4	2	1	1	...	1	1	1	3	9	38
Females	...	2	...	1	2	2	2	6	7	1	3	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	33
Totals	1	3	1	2	2	6	2	8	12	5	5	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	12	71

Table II.

*Deaths Classified according to Age.*

Under 1 year	...	...	..	4
Over 1 and under 2	...	...	...	1
„ 2 „ 5	...	...	...	2
„ 5 „ 15	...	...	...	1
„ 15 „ 25	...	...	...	1
„ 25 „ 45	...	...	...	10
„ 45 „ 65	...	...	...	14
„ 65 „ over	...	...	...	38
				—
Total				71
				—

Table III.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Under 1 year.	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	over 45	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	14	...	2	3	6	1	2	...	..	14	...
Scarlet Fever ...	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	1
Eucephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	5	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	2
Erysipelas ...	5	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...
Chicken Pox ...	20	1	5	11	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	48	2	9	15	11	3	6	...	2	17	4
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary											
Males ...	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	1
Females ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1
Total Pulmonary ...	7	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	...	2
Non-Pulmonary											
Males ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Females ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total Non-Pulmonary	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2
Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary ...	10	...	...	...	...	4	3	2	1	...	4

Notes :—(1) One death from Tubercular Meningitis occurred in an unnotified case.  
(2) Notification of Tuberculosis is on the whole very efficient in the district.



#### 4.—*Causes of Sickness.*

Influenza was prevalent, especially early and late in the year, and caused three deaths. There was also a small outbreak of diphtheria in connection with one School.

#### 5.—*Summary of Nursing arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.*

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—The Maldon Cottage Nursing Association, a voluntary body, provides two trained nurses, one for general and one for maternity work. The latter, who acts either as a Nurse-Midwife or as a Midwife, is the only registered midwife practising in the district. The Association is affiliated to the Essex County Nursing Association, and receives a grant of £30 per annum from the County Council in respect of midwifery work.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—

	Address.	Accommodation.	By whom provided.
Maldon Infant Welfare Centre	Progressive Club, Silver St.	2 rooms	Voluntary Local Committee. Funds provided by County Council. Grant for Milk from Town Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	114, High St.	2 rooms	County Council.
School Clinic	None in District.		
V.D. Clinic	None in District.		

#### HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR MAINTAINED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1.) *Tuberculosis.* None in the district. Accommodation provided by the County Council.

(2.) *Maternity.* None in the district. The County no longer provides accommodation at Queen Charlotte Hospital for difficult cases as formerly.

(3.) *Children.* None in the district. The County Council occasionally assists in sending necessitous cases to Hospital in London.

(4.) *Fever.* The Maldon Joint Hospital Board provides an Isolation Hospital at Heybridge ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles). This consists of a 10 bed ward block of brick, and wooden shelters (heated) which will accommodate 14 beds, administrative block, disinfecter (Washington Lyons), laundry, mortuary, motor ambulance shed and porter's lodge.

(5) *Small Pox.*—The Maldon Joint Hospital Board has a site for a small pox Hospital at Little Totham, (4 miles). This is enclosed by a close boarded fence, and has a permanent corrugated iron kitchen with cooking stove, and a well with pump. Wooden shelters can be transported from the Heybridge Isolation Hospital, and the whole can be put in commission in a few hours.

*Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.*

There is none in the district, except the Union House.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—(a) For Infectious Cases.—Motor Ambulance at Heybridge Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non-infectious cases. The Maldon Joint Hospital Board sanctions the hiring out of this Motor Ambulance for non-infectious cases.

6.—*Laboratory Work.*

Bacteriological work for Tuberculosis and Infectious diseases is contracted for by the County Council.

About 40 specimens (sputum, diphtheria swabs and blood for Widal examination) were reported on during the year.

The M.O.H. keeps a supply of diphtheria antitoxine which is provided free by the Local Authority for prophylactic use, and for treatment in necessitous cases.

Water analysis is provided for by the County Council.

### 7.—*Sanitary Administration.*

#### *Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations in force in the District.*

The Local Sanitary Acts are :—

The Maldon Water Works Act, 1898.

The Maldon Joint Hospital Act, 1903.

The Adoptive Acts in force are :—

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, parts II, III and IV.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, parts II, V, VI, X, and secs. 34—51 (inclusive) in Part III, and secs. 52—67 (inclusive) in Part IV.

Private Streets Works Act, 1892.

The following Bye-Laws have been adopted :—

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops (1902).

Buildings, Nuisances, Slaughter Houses and Common Lodging Houses (1914).

The Town Council meets monthly, throughout the year, and the Sanitary, Waterworks and Housing Committees meet a week or two before the Council. The Committee Reports and the Minutes of the Council are printed and circulated.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The Water Supply is in the hands of the Corporation. It is derived from the Reading and Thanet Beds below the London Clay by two deep wells with a total yield of about 150,000 gallons per day, or 22·8 gallons per inhabitant. The water is of high purity, and has no plumbo solvent action. It is distributed on the intermittent system.



SANITARY CONVENIENCES.—There are 1,420 W.C's., 71 waste-water closets, 153 pail closets, and 18 privies with covered middens in the district. The privies are situated in the rural portion of the Borough. The pail closets are in a portion of the town which it has not yet been found possible to provide with a drainage system.

Two privies were converted into W.C's. during the year.

SCAVENGING.—About 1,400 houses are provided with sanitary Dust Bins, which are emptied weekly by the Local Authority. The Local Authority also empties the pail closets.

#### WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following inspections were carried out:—

General Housing Inspections	...	120
Bakehouses (11 in number)	...	22
Slaughterhouses 6 „ „	...	12
Dairies & Cowsheds 9 „ „	...	16

The condition of the Bakehouses, Slaughterhouses, Dairies and Cowsheds was found satisfactory.

DISINFECTION.—Premises are disinfected after removal or death of cases of infectious disease, by Formaline Spray. Bedding etc., is disinfected by steam at the Heybridge Isolation Hospital.

#### 8.—*Public Health Staff.*

Medical Officer of Health—H. REYNOLDS BROWN, M.A., M.D. Edin. (part time.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health—M. W. FALKNER, F.R.C.S.I. (part time.)

Sanitary Inspector—T. RUSSELL SWALES, M.R. SAN. I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—J. M. TILSLEY.

Health Visitor—MRS. PHILPOTT, CERTIFICATED NURSE, C.M.B. (Provided by the County Council). (Acts also as Tuberculosis and School Nurse).

One half of the salary of the M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector is repaid by the County Council.

9.—*Housing.*

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme (completed and occupied)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

## 1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	120
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	14
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	13

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer	...	...	...	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	13
---	-----	-----	----



- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—
- |   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) By Owners                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... |     |     |     | Nil |
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 61
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—
- |   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) By Owners                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... |     |     |     | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... 6
- (4) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil



